The Bible & Daily Living

Fear not!

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER

FEAR NOT: THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Lesson for February 5, 1984

Bible Study Passages: Isaiah 43:1-7, 18-21, 45:1-6, 22-25

Introduction

"F[illegible] not: [illegible] am with thee." How nu[illegible] were the times in Israel's his[illegible] that God assured them of his abi[illegible] presence and concern. One of the geat biblical promises is that God is always with his people.

Immediately upon reading the above some of you may ask: "Well, where was God when my loved one lay dying?" "Where was he when I lost my job?" "Where was he when my spouse abandoned me?"

Unfortunately, we tend to equate God's lack of intervention as unconcern over what's happening to us. The answer to the above wonderings is seen time and again in the Old and New Testaments. God is present, looking on with hurt and indignation over the struggles of his people.

God stands with his people, not over against them. By faith we believe his love is extended to us even in times of great sorrow and pain. Christ did not promise to snatch us from trouble or suffering, but he did promise to be with us." . . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.? (Matthew 28:20b).

Lord of His People [Isaiah 43:1-7]

God expresses his authority in all realms of life. His is sovereign over his people, history, and the created order. When God made a covenant promise to his people he did not intend to make such a covenant conditional. He loved his people even when they wandered far from the divine purpose. He also promised to watch over them with protective care, no matter what might happen.

The people of Israel were "precious in his sight" even while in exile. As children most of us learned the song, "Jesus Loves the Little Children." That song states a fundamental truth, namely, that Christ loves all people regardless of their color or class.

God promised Isarael that one day the exile would be over and they would return to their homeland. They clung to this hope through all those years of turmoil and exile.

Lord of History [Isaiah 45:1-6]

God used other nations to work out his divine purpose for Israel. He used the Persian empire to bring about an end of the exile for the Israelites. God used a pagan conqueror as an instrument of his divine will. Cyrus, the Persian emperor, is referred to as "my shepherd" and "his annointed."

This does not necessarily imply that Cyrus was a willing collaborator with God. The fact that God can use such an empire and emperor should give us faith in God's ultimate involvement in current history and personalities.

Lord Of The Universe [Isaiah 45:22-25]

The old saying about God acting in mysterious ways carries a lot of truth. We are not always aware of God's activities in history. Sometimes he openly reveals his purposes and at other times he acts without our knowledge. His past activity in history is assurance that he will act again.

How difficult not to believe in the presence of God! We experience him in the birth of a child, in the quietness of prayer and worship, in the beauty of a sunset, or in the gentle rolling surf. Everywhere we turn in history or life we see glimpses of his revelation.

God's greatest display of himself, of course, was in the gift of his Son, Christ Jesus. In him we witness God's ultimate involvement and investment with humankind.

Class members might read Isaiah 43:1-7 and list the promises in those verses. Read Isaiah 45:22-25 and have members define what is most significant to them in that passage. Members may also share an experience when they felt God most present with them.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP)

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Times-Virginian

WORSHIP

Jordan church news

The Echoes of Glory of Darlington Heights will be in concert at Jordan Church on the first Sunday in February, Feb. 5, 1984 at 3 p.m. This program is being sponsored by the Jordan Young Adult Choir.

On Feb. 6, the Senior Choir Song Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Regular senior choir meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m.

The Young Adult Choir will meet Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.

The Senior Choir will practice Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m., with Mrs. Robert Womack.

The regular preaching service will be held the second Sunday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

On the third Sunday in February, at 3 p.m. the C.E.J. Singers will be in concert at Jordan. This program is being sponsored by the Gospel Harmonettes.

The Senior Choir will be celebrating their 33rd anniversary on the fourth Sunday in February at 6:30 p.m. The Faithful Five of Phenix will be in concert for this program.

Galilee church news

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. Matthew 5:44

We sincerely hope that everyone had a spirit-filled week.

You are cordially invited to attend regular worship services at Galilee this coming Sunday at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. Pastor Davis will deliver the morning message and the senior choir will be in charge of music.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, the ladies club of Galilee will sponsor the first Black History celebration. Dr. Harry Ferguson, noted Negro Historian, will be the guest speaker. The Youth Services Singers will render special selections for the occasion. Please come out and discover many important facts about our heritage.

Let us continue in prayer, one for another. May God continue to shower His blessings on us all. Have a good day.

Film screening slated

The Pamplin United Methodist Youth will show the film, "Chariots of Fire" Feb. 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Pamplin Methodist Church.

There is no admission for the movie, and popcorn and drinks will be sold. The event is open to the public.

Mt. Pleasant news

By ODELL CHAMBERS

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, be not afraid, only believe. Mark 5:36

There was a large crowd at church Sunday afternoon to hear the sermon "Go Where I Send Thee". Thanks to everyone who helped to make this service a success.

Starting next Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. We needed a little more time for our school. We'd love to have some new members.

There will be a talent program March 4 at 3 p.m. to benefit the Ladies in Colors. The Ladies in Colors event will be the first Sunday in April at 3 p.m., sponsored by the Ladies Aid Club.

There will be a "Battle of Songs" March 31 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be on sale.

Hopefully our church calendar will be out by the second Sunday.

There has been a virus circulating in the community. Hope everyone will soon be better.

See you next week.

Feb. 4 is VITA day

Saturday, Feb. 4, has been designated VITA Day in Virginia.

The IRS sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides tax assistance for lower income, elderly, handicapped, and non-English speaking individuals filing short forms or qualifying for the Earned Income Credit. This valuable assistance has been offered to Virginians for fifteen years.

Governor Charles S. Robb signed the proclamation designating VITA Day. In his proclamation, the Governor cited the service provided by VITA volunteers who include students, accountants, and members of civic, military, retirement, and religious groups.

In 1983, VITA volunteers helped prepare more than 18,000 returns at 339 sites across the state.

The theme for this year's VITA Day is "VITA Volunteers Free Tax Assistance."

Dr. Davis will speak at AES

Dr. S. John Davis, superintendent of public instruction for the Virginia Department of Education will address a public forum at Appomattox Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 9. He will be the only speaker and will begin his address at 7:35.

Dr. Davis is the top official in the state in the field of education, and he will address a wide realm of issues including future educational goals and the controversial merit pay increases for teachers.

There will be a question-and-answer period at the end for the general public and the press.

Stinson award winner

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Michael Stinson has been named a 1984 United States National Award winner in history and government.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students attain. In fact, the academy recognizes less than ten percent of all American high school students.

Michael, who attends Buckingham Junior High School, was nominated for this honor by his history and government teacher. His name will appear in the United States Achievement Academy official yearbook, published nationally.

The academy selects USAA winners upon recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors or other school sponsors and upon the standards of selection set forth by the academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude, cooperative spirit, dependability, and the recommendation from a teacher or director.

Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reid Stinson. Materanl grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bryant and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Riley Stinson.

APS menu

Wed., Feb. 1 - Barbecue, green peas, potato chips, mixed fruit, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 2 - Hamburger on bun, potato tots, buttered carrots, jello-topping, milk.

Fri., Feb. 3 - Vegetable soup, toasted cheese sandwich, apple sauce, milk.

[illegible], Feb. 6 - Hot Dog on bun, carrot & cabbage slaw, vegetarian beans, HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAKE, milk.

Tues., Feb. 7 - Chicken, creamed potatoes, string beans, bread, butter, milk.

Wed., Feb. 8 - Ham Pattie, Blackeye peas, corn, home baked roll, butter, chocolate pudding, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 9 - Hamburger on bun, French fries, mixed vegetables, milk.

Fri., Feb. 10 - Fish Squares, mixed greens, macaroni & cheese, corn bread, pears, milk.

Mon., Feb. 13 - Sausage Pattie, green peas, baked apples, home baked roll, butter, milk.

Tues., Feb. 14 - Chili Beans, Slaw, home baked roll - butter, jello, milk.

Wed., Feb. 15 - Turkey, creamed potatoes, string beans, home baked roll-butter, milk

Thurs., Feb. 16 - Hamburger on bun, potato triangles, buttered carrots, milk.

Fri., Feb. 16 - Tomato Soup, bologna sandwich, apple sauce, cookie, milk.

Mon., Feb. 20 - Chuck Wagon, lima beans, baked apples, home baked roll-butter, milk

Tues., Feb. 21 - Barbecue, green peas, buttered corn, pudding, milk.

Wed., Feb. 22 - Pizza, tossed salad, cherries, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 23 - Hamburger on bun, string beans, French fries, milk.

Fri., Feb. 24 - Fish Squares, creamed potatoes, mixed greens, home baked roll-butter, milk.

Mon., Feb. 27 - Hot Dog on bun, slaw, baked beans, cookie, milk.

Tues., Feb. 28 - Turkey-gravy, creamed potatoes, string beans, home baked roll-butter, milk.

Wed., Feb. 29 - Pizza, tossed salad, peaches, milk.

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